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WINNERS OF THE WEST

Photoplay in two reels.

Episode one "The Power of Gold"

Story and scenario by Ford Beebe

Produced by Edward Laemmle

Author, Universal Film Mfg. Co. Inc.
of the U. S. as employer for hire.



The Story of "Win

Thousands Race to Coast in Frantic Rush for Gold

"WINNERS OF THE WEST" ©CIL 16988

Episode One

"The Power of Gold"

IN the fall of 1848, following the discovery of gold on Sutter's Creek, California, Captain John C. Fremont starts west blazing a direct wagon route to the Pacific Coast.

Following the Boone's Lick Trail, he passes through the little Missouri town of Boonville.

In Boonville live the characters of our story, Squire Blair, his son Louis, Dr. Edwards and his daughter Betty, and Arthur Standish (Art Acord).

Art is a hunter and trapper, the last of a long line of adventurers extending back to the days of William the Conqueror.

While the Fremont expedition is in Boonville, Art clashes with Louis Blair over the latter's mistreatment of a horse that he (Standish) rides after Louis has been thrown. Boasting that he kills horses he can't ride, Louis is about to shoot the horse when Standish interferes and thrashes him soundly for it. Fremont sees the fight and because of his defense of the dumb animal, makes him a present of the horse.

That afternoon a stranger arrives from the gold fields. The stories he tells of the fortunes to be picked up there arouse the villagers and they decide to form an expedition to go west across the plains in search of gold.

The messenger has also brought a package for Squire Blair. It proves to contain two letters, one for himself and one for Arthur Standish. The letter to the squire explains that the gold dust is sent by Arthur Standish's father in payment of a gambling debt which he left when he disappeared some years before.

Young Blair, anxious to keep Standish out of the party, appeals to the squire for help. The old man tells Standish of his father's debt of honor to him, of which Arthur knew nothing, and persuades him that the honorable thing to do is to remain and work it out to him instead of going west with the gold seekers.

He withholds the letter from Arthur, fearing it may contain the information that the debt is paid. Young Blair opens it and finds that in it Arthur's father tells of finding a gold cave in the west by means of a map which is in a genealogy of Arthur's family in Arthur's cabin.

Louis visits Arthur's cabin and makes a copy of the map.

To pay off the supposed debt of honor, Standish remains behind when the wagon train leaves for the west, taking with it Louis, Doctor Edwards and his daughter Betty, the only one in the village who does not believe that Standish has remained through fear of the dangerous trip.

At Standish's cabin Squire Blair outlines the work he has in mind for Arthur.

In the meantime the Sioux have broken out on the warpath and learn-

ing of the wagon train, they start south to intercept it. The members of the party, unaware of their danger, have relaxed their vigilance and are unprepared for the attack.

As the squire is about to leave Standish's cabin, he pulls out his handkerchief and the letter to Standish falls to the floor. Standish picks it up and discovers it is addressed to himself. He reads in it of the existence of the map in the book of his family records.

He finds finger prints in the dust on the book. Also the map is partially torn from the book, which Louis did while copying it.

Standish accuses the squire of having read the letter and copied the map. The squire, to save his face, draws to put this man out of the way, who may recover the map and ruin his (the squire's) standing in the community.

In the west, the wagon train is going on its way unconscious of the horde of Indians riding down upon them.

Pioneers Massacred by Sioux on War Path "WINNERS OF THE WEST"

Episode Two

"The Blazing Arrow"

BEFORE the squire can fire at Art, the latter lunges across the table and grapples with him—the fight interrupted by the arrival of a messenger from farther north, who tells of the Indians being on the warpath—headed south.

Realizing that they will encounter the wagon train, Squire Blair urges Standish to ride to warn them lest his son be killed. In a frenzy he offers Standish any reward he may name. Art says he needs no reward for such a thing and that he would have gone in spite of Blair.

He rides to the rescue. In the meantime, to escape the attentions of Louis, Betty has left the wagon train, and is far behind it picking flowers.

Gold is
Discovered

A Debt
of Honor



Cut No. 8-X

PUBLICITY

Film Heroes----Why Not?



ART ACORD IN "WINNERS OF THE WEST"
IT'S A UNIVERSAL

Cut No. 5-S

character is Fremont, that one is Kit Carson, etc., the actor must look like the original person to the last detail.

"Mr. Beebe has spent several months consulting reference volumes dealing with the characters and exploits to be screened. Some of the more important historical works to which he has had recourse are 'The Life of Kit Carson' by Anderson, Gertrude Atherton's 'The History of the Lewis and Clarke Expedition,' 'The Santa Fe Trail' by Hayes, John C. Fremont's 'Memoirs of My Life,' Eldridge's 'The Beginnings of San Francisco,' Brady's 'The Conquest of the Southwest' and 'The Old Santa Fe Trail' by Inman.

"There has been a certain hesitancy on the part of motion picture producers to make 'costume pictures' because it was feared such productions were doomed to failure by the public's lack of interest in semi-historical subjects. That this theory was a fallacy has been proven by the popularity of certain foreign films of a historical nature. The one objection to these films was that they were in many instances propaganda.

"The substitution of pictures portraying some of the picturesque figures and more striking and significant episodes in American history should certainly be welcomed by those among us who are eager to foster a spirit of patriotism in our children. Incidentally, as we are going to handle them properly, these pictures should prove an effective agency in the interest of Americanization.

"The names of John C. Fremont, Daniel Boone, Israel Putnam, Marion the Swamp Fox, Paul Revere, Ethan Allen, Nathan Hale, Kit Carson—to mention only a few of the conspicuous figures of our early days—certainly suggest the daring deeds of fine spirits which are suitable for reflection on the screen; and Washington, Franklin and Alexander Hamilton not less defi-

nitely offer themselves as heroes for treatment in moving pictures which would amply supply the interest aroused by the clash of high purpose and intellect against opposing will and circumstances.

"Few persons realize the appeal motion pictures have for children. It is estimated that the public which patronizes 'serials' is made up mostly of children—90 per cent. is the approximate figure. We recognize that the tastes and requirements of children should be considered constantly during the production of a 'serial.'

"It is with this purpose before us that we have determined to co-operate with the schools of the land by placing before the children a motion picture that shall combine the entertainment value of a clean picture with the inspiring and educational factors to be derived from an intelligent study of those phases of our country's development which are most picturesque. We feel great good can be accomplished by presenting screen versions of the lives of those pioneers, heroes, warriors and statesmen, whose lives serve as an example to the youth of our land.

"We feel we are advancing the cause of Americanism to a considerable degree by inculcating in the minds of those millions of children who are fond of motion pictures, a reverence and appreciation of those hardy, courageous and daring heroes who helped to make our country the glorious land it is today. In 'Winners of the West' we have succeeded in placing on the screen several of the most inspiring episodes of that most glamorous period in our country's development, 'the buck-skin era.' Upon the success of this innovation will rest our decision whether we shall broaden the scope of this new departure and include the lives of virtually every picturesque hero who had so much to do in blazing the way for our present civilization."

Daring Deeds
of Early
Americans

The "Buck-
Skin Era"



Cut No. 10-X

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